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The Southland queen. Vol. III, No. 11 [9] January 1898

Beeville, Texas: The Jennie Atchley Company, January 1898

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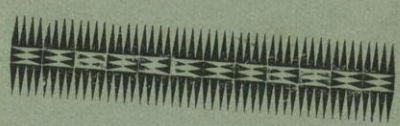
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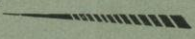
The 

SOUTHLAND

QUEEN.



BEEVILLE, TEXAS.

January 1898. 

JUST LISTEN!

THREE TEXAS BEE-MEETINGS.

The Central Texas Bee-Keepers Association, meets at the Home of Judge Terral, in Cameron; Feb. 2 & 3. No Hotel bills to pay; ALL ARE INVITED.

The South Texas Bee-Keepers Association, meets at the Home of the Atchleys, Feb. 15 No Hotel bills to pay and ALL ARE INVITED.

The Texas State Bee-Keepers Association, meets at the Home of W. R. Graham, in Greenville, April 6 & 7 ALL ARE INVITED. No Hotel bills to pay.

FARM BEE-KEEPING.

The only bee-paper in the United States edited exclusively in the interest of the farmer bee-keeper and the beginner is **THE BUSY BEE**, published by EMERSON T. ABBOTT, St Joseph, Mo. Write for **FREE SAMPLE COPY NOW.**

Are You Coming To California? or thinking of it.

Then read the monthly (second year) **PACIFIC BEE JOURNAL**, the only bee paper west of the Rocky Mountains 50 cents a year. Los Angeles Cal. **SAMPLE COPY FREE.**

HOLYLAND BEES & QUEENS.

I am now ready to fill your orders for any amount of bees and queens. I now have 200 colonies of bees in connection with my large number of queen rearing nuclei; and am better prepared than ever before to fill your orders. Untested queens, \$1.00 each, or \$5.00 for six or \$9.00 per dozen. Tested queens 2.00 each or 10.50 for six or 20.00 per dozen. Bees by the pound; one pound \$1.00 10 or more pounds 90 cents. Special prices on large quantities quoted on application.

WILLIE ATCHLEY, Beeville, Bee Co., Texas.

THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN.

Published Monthly. Devoted to the Exchange of Thoughts on Apiculture. \$1.00 Yearly

Vol. 3.

BEEVILLE, TEXAS, JANUARY, 1898.

No. 11.

News Notes.

At this writing, January 2, we are having it pretty cool. Ice a half an inch thick and a Jack Frost on the ground that resembles a light snow.

OUR bees have been confined to their hives more this winter than ever before since we have been at this point, about five years. We had ten days slow, cold rains in December, and the bees could not fly during the time.

MRS. Julia A. Gillespie, aged 72 years, mother of Mrs. W. O. Victor of Wharton, Texas, died December 7, 1897. It will be remembered that Mr. W. O. Victor is one of the most extensive bee-keepers of South Texas. THE QUEEN desires to express her sympathy for the bereaved. Weep not, for Mother Gillespie has just gone to rest and will be in waiting over there for her loved ones left behind.

WE are going to try our commissioners for an appropriation for defraying the expenses of a bee and

honey exhibit at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition at Omaha, Nebraska, this year. All Texas bee-keepers lend us a helping hand and we will surely be favored, and if so we want to make an exhibit that will do great credit to this great and grand State of ours. We will take the matter up at all of our bee meetings which convene between this and April 10.

* * *

We want a special car to carry our Texas exhibit and the San Antonio & Aransas Pass railroad company will grant us one free. Honey, bees, wax and supplies can be sent us here, and we will arrange for the railroads and express companies to bring them in free of charge. The goods will be sold at the close of the exposition and each party receive their pro rata for same.

REPORT OF A YEAR'S WORK.**Queen Supersedure. — No Fall Honey.**

BY J. S. WORLEY.

Written for The Queen.

I WILL send you my report for 1897. I started in the spring with 40 colonies and increased to 53. My honey crop was 2,000 pounds of extracted honey. About 1,100 pounds of first class honey and the rest was mixed with honey dew. We get 8 cents per pound for the best and 6 cents for the other.

Two of the colonies in the spring were no good. One of them raised a queen in the winter that produced about as many drones as workers. The other superseded their queen in March. March 19, I opened the hive and found a fine looking virgin queen. The old one had been gone four or five days. April the 5th I again examined the hive and found eggs in two frames. In about ten days I looked in again and to my surprise found only one cell nearly ready to seal and a little larvæ food in some others. In a few more days I examined the hive again and found only eggs. I thought that if one egg hatched others can do the same, so I gave them a frame of brood in all stages and the brood in this frame was com-

pleted but the eggs in the other would not hatch. To test the matter further I took one of the frames of eggs and gave it to a colony that had swarmed. Two days later I examined the comb and saw food but by close examination I could find no larvæ. The next day the comb was cleaned out, eggs and all. I kept this queen more than a month and there was not more than a half dozen cells capped. Some days there would be food in the cells, but usually nothing but eggs. She was large and fine looking. There was no sign of supersedure when I took her out.

The fall crop was almost a complete failure. I have reduced to 47 colonies with one nucleus and will feed about 250 pounds of honey.

Isom, Tenn.

THIRTY-TWO BELOW ZERO.**The No Bee-way Sections.—When They Are Alright.**

BY E. A. MORGAN.

Written for The Queen.

IF you feel chilly over my last letter what will this one do to you as I write now at 12 noon with the thermometer standing 32 degrees below zero just outside my window. We all have tight double walled houses and big

stoves with plenty of seasoned hard maple wood or hard coal stoves, and by keeping them red hot day and night manage to live through these winters. The ground freezes solid eight feet deep, but we could stand it alright if it would stay warm when once it did come off spring, but winter returns many times during April, May and June freezing buds, blossoms and bees.

What I learned the past season is not much.

I might say that I used the no bee-way sections with barred separators and learned that better comb honey, and more of it, can be produced with them and it can be cleaned of propolis and packed in half the time that slotted sections can. The reason they can store more in them is because they cluster above in a more compact body and are not divided up into one pound compartments.

I find also that it pays to breed all queens from strains that show superior working qualities, prolific, gentleness, long life and that build straight combs, filling them quickly and cap white. A few such can be selected and marked and tested each year.

I have also hit upon a nice way to form nuclei so that all bees will stay where put.

It is to allow a hive to cast a swarm, capture and cage the queen

and let the bees return. Then proceed to divide up into nuclei at once before and bees mark their location. Give each a queen cell and all will stay where put, on account of having swarmed.

I think I gave you my method of safe introduction of queens. I have reared queens extensively the past season and have practiced this method right along without losing a single one.

Capture the queen to be superseded and cage her in the cage you are to use in introducing the new queen. Allow her to run around the cage two or three minutes to give it her scent. Destroy her and run the new queen in the cage she came out of. Place the cage between the frames and close the hive for 24 hours, at the end of which time she will be out and laying. The bees will not object to her as they smell their own queen's scent, and all is well.

I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Chippewa Falls, Wis.

The President of the South Texas Bee-Keepers Association calls for the meeting of the above association to be held at the Home of Atchleys', 2½ miles north of Beeville, Wednesday, February 15, 1898. Do not forget the day and date and bring all the bee-keepers with you and have a good time.

MANY QUESTIONS DISCUSSED.

BY L. L. SKAGGS.

I SEND you one sample of foundation and a piece of comb. This comb was built from the same kind of foundation as this sample; please examine the mid-rib of both samples and tell us which is the thickest. I cut out the comb and shaved it down half way with my pocket knife and layed it on the entrance board for the bees to clean up and they rolled it off in the dirt and it got a little soiled, but you can tell whether the bees have thinned the base or not. I have got over 100 of these combs and I do not believe there is one but what the bees have thinned the base. Two of my neighbors used about 15 pounds each of this heavy foundation and their bees thinned the base the same as mine did. This troubled me to know that bees thin the base of foundation when Mr. Stachelhausen tells us that it is impossible for bees to thin the mid-rib of foundation.

I have found out that bees can work wax just about as they please and I tell some of the things that bees have done, for I have seen them do lots of things that others claim they never do. Some claim that they never swarm and go off without settling first: I have seen several do this. Some claim that

bees never swarm without starting queen cells: I know this to be a mistake. I have known bees to seal queen cells when the larvæ was not over two days old. I have torn them open and the bees have fed them for several days and sealed them again and it hatched out a good queen; so it is with all fixed rules with bees; they delight in breaking them. Whether it is a rule for bees to thin the base of foundation or not, I do not know; but it is possible all the same; I have the proof.

Once I thought I would find out just how the bees built their comb by watching them through glass, but I never found out half as much as Mr. Stachelhausen did. The more I watched the less I knew about the way they worked their foundation. When the work was progressing the bees were clustered so thick that I could not tell anything about it, so I gave it up in disgust. I would like to see the bees pulling as Mr. Stachelhausen describes it. I can imagine how it looks to see thousands of the little creatures pulling and trembling, and the foundation bending in the proper place. I know they must get very tired.

SMOKER FUEL.

I have never found anything that suits me as well as chips from the wood pile. Try them for a few

days and I think you will never want anything else. First, drop several good, live coals in your smoker, and then the chips on top.

Sometime I will tell you how to make a good cheap bee tent—no bee-keeper can get along without one. Robbers have no show if you use a bee tent.

Click, Texas.

We received the samples of comb and foundation and examined both closely. The base, or septum of the drawn out comb is somewhat thinner than that of the foundation, and, as you say, they were one and the same before the bees worked one of them out. We think we can see where the bees can use all the wax clear down to the mid-rib and yet not touch the REAL base at all, which would make quite a difference in the looks of the thickness of the base. Friend Skaggs, your experiments are of great worth and may lead 'o great good to the fraternity, and if bees do thin the base of foundation it will save some or all bee-keepers who use heavy base foundation the expense of so much wax: or it may turn out that the bees may thin down the base and use it in the extension of the cell. We have always thought that bees did not thin the base of foundation. Let us hear from others on this subject while the iron is hot, and we may all find out that Mr. Skaggs is right to a greater or lesser extent. We too know that bees swarm and go off without settling, and also they will sometimes swarm when no queen cells are started; but sealing the cells over two-day-old larvæ was surely a mistake on the part of the bees. Who knows but bees do make mistakes sometimes?

A RECORD BREAKER OF A SEASON

BY G. E. JOHNS.

Special to The Queen.

I RECEIVED the QUEEN and was very much pleased with it.

We are having splendid weather in New South Wales. Bee keepers in most parts anticipate a record breaking honey flow this season. Our champion honey producing tree, the yellow box, is budding densely.

Illabo, Austraalia.

We received a sample of yellow box honey from N. S. W., and it is very light in color, pleasant to the tast, has a good body and will compare very favorably with mesquite or clover honey of this country.

A SUCCESSFUL BEGINNER.

Special to The Queen.

I AM a beginner, and will be 40 years old the 15th of this month and have had one year's experience with bees. From four colonies I have extracted 50 gallons of beautiful honey.

I have been a reader of your valuable journal for over one year.

I think I will buy and increase next year till I can tell you something about my bees. These I have are in fine condition. I have learned a great deal this year. I live near Mr. C. B. Bankston who helps me along alright. I will ask many questions in the near future.

R. S. BOOTHE.

Biography of Mr. R. B. Leahy.

Mr. R. B. Leahy, the editor of the progressive Beekeeper, was born June 13, 1857, at Port Richmond, N. Y., his mother dying when he was a baby. At the age of three years he was taken to a new home at Baiting Hollow, N. Y., and lived there with a stepmother until nearly nine years old, when his father was drowned. This practically left him alone in the world to look after himself. His father was a sea captain, and young Leahy had spent a few months on the ocean, with him the year before his death. After his father's death the home was broken up, the youthful Leahy took a position as cabin boy, and the time between the ages of 9 and 21 years he continued on the sea. He has been across the Atlantic ocean eight times, and visited more than half of the foreign countries. Three years of his sea life was spent in the United States Navy.

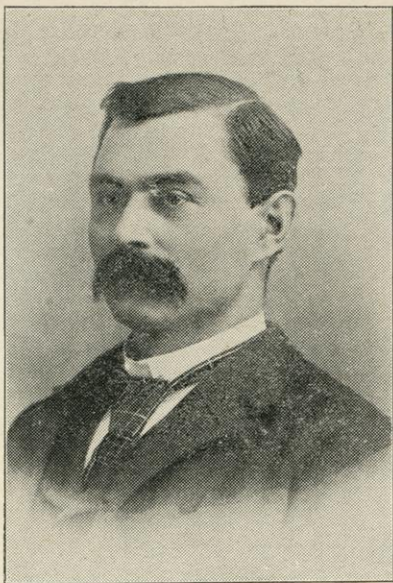
Since getting back to dry land again, Mr Leahy has been occupied as follows: He spent one year as conductor on a railroad in N. Y. and then went "West;" worked as a farm hand in Illinois one year, and then rented a farm and worked for himself three years more. At the

age of 24 he married, Miss Henrietta Braentigam, of Belleville, Ills. They have had but one child, and lost it in its infancy.

In 1882 Mr. Leahy purchased 5 box-hives of bees at a sale, then transferred four of the five into modern hives, and being late in the season they all died the following winter. The next year, being a good one, he increased the one colony to 18, and developed the worst case of "bee-fever" ever heard of—one that Quinine could not cure. But while the bees had done well, other misfortunes overtook him, and in December, 1883, he gave the bees to a doctor to pay part of his bill, then went around to see the other parties he owed, and promised to pay them too soon.

He then went to Higginsville, Mo., with his mind made up to find some one that had box-hives, and interest them with the new "fixin's," and he succeeded. He has worked hard for ten years to make a bee-keeper of himself, also to build up a supply business, and is now manager of the Leahy Manufacturing Company—a nucleus of which he started ten years ago with a foot-power saw. .

Mr. Leahy has been three times elected president of the Missouri State Bee-keepers' Association, and once vice-president of the North-



R. B. LEAHY.
A Bee-keeper and Manufacturer
at Forty.



R. B. LEAHY.
A Sailor Boy at Twenty.

western Bee-Keepers' Association. He has held many other positions of honor, but they are not pertaining to bees, hence they do not necessarily belong here.

The Leahy Manufacturing Company is the largest company of its kind west of the Mississippi river, having a capital of \$24,000. To the young men that think times are hard, and work scarce, Mr. Leahy says that there is plenty of room yet for those that have the snap and push.

We are glad of this opportunity to give the picture of our friend and brother editor, and something about his life history. In view of his early struggles, his subsequent success should serve to encourage every young man who thinks he has a "hard time of it."

[We have always found Mr. Leahy a pleasant man to deal with, always kind, and generous, and all in all as we look at it, he wishes to do a live and let live business. We wish Mr. Leahy a big trade; "The Progressive Bee-Keeper" a big subscription list, and may he always feel as he felt when he wrote the following in January Progressive; which is kindness in its purity.—ED]

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

With ringing bells and joyful hearts the glad new year is born, amid the plaudits of the world, and the expression, "Happy New Year, Happy New Year," is passed around. But, friends, I never before have been inspired with the gladness and happiness on the birth of the new year as I have with the coming of 1898. The bountiful crops, and the kind patronage of our friends, enabled me to take that long-wished-for tour to the scenes of my childhood. My health is much better than usual; our factory has been running on full time since the 15 of October, and orders have been coming in to such an extent that we could hardly fill them. The new year finds us busy and prosperous. Hence we are happy and thankful. Thankful to our friends who so kindly send us their patronage; thankful for the words of kindness and good cheer that are coming in; and thankful to Him from whom all blessings flow.

Don't over look the Bee-meeting at Cameron, the first wednesday and thursday in February; 2 and 3. Every body go and take some body with them: Judge Terral says no Hotel bill to pay and all are invited.

A REPORT.

BY T. G. MORGAN.

Written for The Queen.

I HAVE about 200 bee hives. My bees did not do so well this year. I have sold about 30 gallons of honey to one man since the yellow fever scare left. I have had such a dry fall for my bees that I did not finish taking the honey. I have some comb honey and considerable extracted on hand. The demand for honey is very good.

Rapids Parish, La.

TWINS.—A REPORT.—A DRY SUMMER.—A BEE-KEEPER, CITY CLERK.

BY J. E. FREE.

YOU promised to send our little Jennie your photo some time and as you have not done so yet, we think this Christmas a good time to send it. Jennie is in good health, and the neighbors say that with her black sparkling eyes and curly hair she is "the pink of the family." Jeunie is not very much petted now as she has little twin sisters. (Ella and Stella) who will be one year old January 1, 1898.

Our bees did not gather much honey this year. In 1896 we took 400 sections from 12 colonies,

spring count. In 1897 we took 156 sections from 16 colonies, spring count. You see there was a considerable difference. We had a severely dry summer here; vegetables were a failure and my little nursery made very poor growth.

I have been elected city clerk of Demorest and hope altogether to make "buckle and tongue" meet.

Excuse this long gossipy, personal letter; and write us one in return for we are very fond of your letters.

Demorest, Ga.

We will send the photo at an early date. We too were cut short of a honey crop on account of a drought. Suppose you will not take any bees into the City Clerk's office. We wish you a prosperous season for 1898. Jennie must take good care of the twins.

A FINGER BADLY MASHED.

LOOSES HONEY BY IT.

Written for The Queen.

My report of this season is as follows:

I started with six colonies and increased to eight, to start the honey season with. These eight colonies gave me 835 pounds of honey, 700 pounds of extracted and 135 pounds of comb honey. One colony gave 125 pounds of extracted and section.

Would have got more but for an accident which happened to me on the 23rd of September, just a few days before I wanted to extract about 125 pounds.

While oiling our windmill I got one of my fingers between the gearing, having it badly mashed and came very near losing it.

In all I would now have nearly 1,000 pounds from eight colonies. I have the eight framed dove-tailed hives and use shallow extracting supers.

As I run my bees for extracted and comb honey, I first let them get started in the shallow super, and then I put a super filled with sections in between. If I get the sections filled I will have about enough comb honey and there will be no half sections left. I put 24 sections to each hive. If you run some colonies for comb honey and treat them in this way, the bees seem to try and see how quickly they can fill the sections between the super and brood nest.

I shall increase to 20 colonies next year and see what I can do with them.

LOUIS SCHOLL,
Hunter, Texas.

A REPORT.

Written for The Queen.

You asked in the Queen for all

the bee-keepers to tell what they had done this year, so I will send in our report. We had 57 colonies spring count and increased to 81. We took nearly 3,000 pounds of honey, both comb and extracted. It was so dry here we got only half a crop, but we are thankful to get what we did. We paid our debts and came out with something to live upon, and that is more than the cotton planters have done. Our bees are doing very well now. It is very dry.

SMITH and DOWNING,
Pettus, Texas.

We have just received a letter from E. Whitcomb of Friend, Nebraska. He is very enthusiastic about the Bee and Honey exhibit to be held in Omaha, Neb., next summer, and offers to lend his assistance. He is commissioner of the Bureau of Bee Industries and he is leaving no stone unturned to make it what it should be, a grand affair. Let us all lend a helping hand. We are desirous of having Texas represented and will do our part to make the Texas exhibit a success. We will correspond with Mr. Johnson, the president of Galveston and expect aid from him.

A drop of ink makes millions think.

HOW TO PREVENT AFTER SWARMING.

BY L. STACHELHAUSEN.

Written for The Queen.

IN THE QUEEN for May and June I described some ways of forming artificial swarms. By these methods it is expected that the swarm, as well as the old colony, will give some surplus honey the same season. If a large increase of colonies is desired probably the best way in our climate would be to raise queens in the spring and to form as many nuclei as new colonies are desired. During the season these nuclei can be multiplied and will build up to strong colonies without any help, except empty combs and full sheets of foundation, and the next year we will have as many good and strong colonies as we formed nuclei the year before.

In the March 1897 number I recommended an increase of colonies for our locality, because a swarm AND the old colony will bring more honey than an undivided colony. If we manage our apiary according to this rule the question arises, how to prevent after-swarms?

Generally the so-called Heddon method of preventing after-swarming is recommended. This method

is not practicable for our purpose because the old colony is so much depopulated that no surplus honey can be expected of it.

Cutting out the queen cells immediately after the prime swarm has issued will not prevent after-swarms, because many times the bees will build new queen cells. If we wait a week before cutting the queen cells sometimes an after-swarm may come out before this time. The only sure way would be to cut the queen cells twice. At first just when the prime swarm is hived and again ten days later. A simpler way is to let the first after-swarm come out. We hive this swarm and keep it anywhere in a box till late in the evening. In the parent colony all queen cells are carefully cut out and in the evening the swarm is given back to the old colony, the hive is raised about two inches in front to give ample ventilation and so kept, over night. Under these circumstances the bees will select their favored queen.

Generally all these and some other manipulations are too much work in a large apiary. This is the reason I experimented some years ago with giving a virgin queen to the old colony as soon as it had cast a prime swarm.

According to my experience

these queens are accepted nine times out of ten, if they are given to the old colony right after it has cast the prime swarm. Hereby I disturbed the bees as little as possible. I just lifted a corner of the enamel cloth on top of the frames and let the queen run in between the bees.

In Gleanings, June 15, 1897, G. M. Doolittle tells how his experience is quite different from mine in this respect. My opinion is, that the plan is quite according to nature. When a colony has cast a prime swarm we will generally find sealed queen cells in the hive. The first queen leaving the cell is hunting up all the combs, and as soon as she will find a cell she will bite a small hole in the side of it and will sting her sister in the cell to death, provided the worker bees do not prevent her from doing so. The queen cells are torn down afterwards by the worker bees and the dead queens carried from the hive. This is an old well known fact. The question is now, what are the circumstances when the worker bees prevent the young queen from destroying her sisters in the cells?

We can observe that the bees act in this way if a large number of bees are in the hive compared with the quantity of brood, and

this is the case about fourteen days after the prime swarm; but immediately after the prime swarm the colony is full of brood and the larger part of the bees, (and mostly old bees) have left the hive with the swarm, so that hardly enough bees are left in the hive to protect and feed the brood. In such a condition no colony will think of swarming, (if this expression will be excused) and consequently the worker bees will not protect the queen cells against the young queen. The strange queen is accepted without any trouble because nearly all the bees in the hive are young bees.

If we would introduce the queen a few days later the condition of the queen would be quite different. Many young bees would have left the cells, open brood would have been capped and the colony would be populous compared with the brood. In this condition the young queen would not be accepted or be prevented from destroying the cells.

By this method of introducing a virgin queen we gain, besides preventing after-swarms.

The old colony will have a laying queen about fourteen days earlier, if the colony is left alone, and will be stronger when the main honey flow commences. The virgin queen can be reared from a select stock.

Some may think that such a colony may swarm again after the young queen is fertilized and had filled the combs with brood but this is not so. A young fertilized queen will very seldom, if ever, swarm in the same year she is reared. I know this is an assertion by which I come in conflict with another prominent bee-keeper, Dr. C. C. Miller. I will discuss the matter in my next article, when I will speak about prevention of swarming.

STACHELHAUSEN STARTING AN OUT APIARY.

We had a good honey season this year. This winter I will start an out apiary again, and will increase my colonies to about 250 next year. I expect a good honey flow in 1898 again, as we had a good rain this month and horse mint is already coming up. One thing I cannot understand as yet, and that is, many bee-keepers say that cotton is a good honey plant. Around my apiary are at least 2,000 acres planted in cotton (inside of two miles) but in all the 18 years I have been keeping bees I have never seen a single pound of cotton honey as yet. Maybe the soil is of some influence, but we have bottom lands here of a sandy clay. We have black lands and a few fields in adobe land—all kinds of soil except sand

Cutoff, Texas.

Friend S.:—We do not think that cotton furnishes honey in all localities alike, and but little cotton honey is gathered here in South Texas, while in North Texas cotton is one of the main sources for a honey crop.

TOO MUCH RAIN.

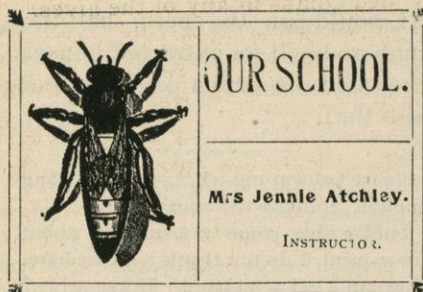
DR. STELL GOT BUT LITTLE HONEY.

I HAVE often tried to get time to let you know how I got along this year in the bee business. It is bad but I guess it right to let your good readers know that I have made a complete failure. From 18 colonies increased up to 40 well enough but only got 22 pounds of honey the entire season, at an expense of 22 hives at \$10 each, and about \$15 worth of foundation. Including later, hives, etc.: it cost me a total of \$240. You see I have 22 pounds of very high honey to eat, and nothing to compare with last year's yield, when 10 colonies produced 1,500 pounds of comb honey which I sold at one dollar per pound. The bad honey crop in this section is due to the rainy season, which was unusually great this year; commencing in June and rained every day until October. I will let you know something new for your journal next month. THE QUEEN comes regularly and is always appreciated.

Jesus Maria, Mexico.

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Kind friends:— Well we are still in the land of the living, but have had a tough time with yellow fever.

I want to know if you open your hives on warm days in winter to see how they are getting along? I have given 30 lbs of Y. C. sugar to two hives, and it seems to me that it is plenty, from way the frames look. Do you do any thing to protect the hive in winter? or do you leave them as they are? Do you use two supers on one hive for comb honey, I mean do you fill up or use one and renew sections as filled?

LEE ELDER.

Biloxi, Miss.

Friend Elder:— We are glad to know that you have gone through the yellow fever scourge, without loss of life.

If we are runing for honey and know that the bees have plenty, we do not often open our hives during winter at all, still, we can do so without much defficulty, but I think it is best to leave them alone when you are sure they are well fixed for winter. Should you wish to inspect their stores at any time

during winter, you can do so without pulling the frames apart or disturbing the brood nest. Just raise the cover and quilt and peep in between the top bars, and if you can see plenty of sealed honey they are likley O. K. as to stores. We do not use any protection, more than a dry hive, with covers made tight. We use two to three supers, according to the strength of the colony, it pays us best to first place on one super, and when ready to seal, raise it up and place empty one between, this causes the bees to finish up the top super quick, which makes the nicest honey.

Mrs Atchley:— Inclose find \$1.00 for the QUEEN to begin with January No.

I have just purchased an apiary of 50 colonies, and want to ask some questions. My bees are all in rather old hives, one and a half, and two stories. They were not prepared for the winter and are in rather bad shape. The upper stories are filled with empty frames and sections, which I thought might be removed; but upon trying it I found it all sealed together and did not think it best to break so much honey.

Tell me what to do with them.? Does working with bees cause them to consume more honey? At what time will it pay me to begin feeding in preference to losing the bees.? What proporton of an apiary would you run for comb honey? The home market is rather slim here.

GEO. W. RAY.

Mountain Home, Texas.

Friend Ray:— I would let the upper stories and sections stay on until warm weather, and the bees began to get some honey.

You might get the bees to robbing by breaking the honey, and result in more harm than the supers will do left on. Yes, working with bees in winter will cause them to use more honey, and begin brood rearing, if they are disturbed too much and then, they consume honey in a hurry. I would advise feeding at any moment in preference to losing the bees. If you have any colonies with a surplus, take it and hang the honey right in close to the cluster of the colonies needing feed, do this at about night. If you have no honey to feed, give sugar syrup; make it a little thinner than for table use, place a vessel on the frames of the brood chamber that will hold about a quart, a flat pan will do, fill it full of feed, cut a cloth to fit the pan lay it on the syrup, leave a long piece of the cloth on one side to serve as a ladder for the bees about an inch or more wide, to get the bees started quick pour a little feed from the frames up to the vessel along the strip of cloth, feed at night to keep down robbing; empty supers can be placed on while feeding, feed about a gallon and then watch that they do not get out.

I would run the bees, half for comb and half for extracted honey. Then find out which paid best and raise that.

Please inform me what you use in the Smoker. to make the smoke with.

Kindly give some information about Horse-mint, I do not think it grows here. How can I get a start of Horse-mint? and let me know if it is a good honey plant: Is it started from the seed?

I am a beginner and wish all the information I can get.

THOMAS WYNN.

Palo Pinto, Texas. Jan, 6th 1898.

We use a most any kind of fuel, or any thing that is burnable. Rotten Elm wood, chopped up corn cobs, Planer shavings, rags, and leaves; we have a moss here that grows on the trees, that makes fine fuel. Put in some fire, if it is a direct draft smoker, then the fuel on top and go to puffing: If a cold blast smoker, put in the fuel and the fire behind it. I think Horse-mint grows all around you, and if you will watch for it about June first you will see the bees working on it. It starts from the seed. If you have none, we will mail you some seed free. Yes, Horse-mint is considered one of the best honey plants of Texas. I will be glad to assist you in any way I can consistently to make a right start. If it is any one in the world I delight in

helping it is a beginner that wants to learn. This School is for you, and all beginners, so come on with your questions.

I have two colonies of Italians in 8 frame hives, got since the honey season. I have no practice with bees; my only knowledge about them is picked up from books. I cant tell when honey plants will bloom, fruit bloom is about March 15th. In your lessons, the idea of division in early spring, by taking new hives and placing in it 4 frames from old hive with new queen, seems to me good. And I want to ask if you think I should try it? Can you give me an idea of what time I should make the division? And at what time the heavy flow of honey for surplus should start here? Will this division prevent after swarming from both old and new colonies?

W. P. DANNER.

Beaufort, N. C.

I would advise making your divisions about the time natural swarming begins, or a little before. It will be safe to make artificial swarms as laid down in my lessons, at any time during spring or summer, when there is a honey flow on. Do not divide too early, as it might turn out badly, and damage your bees, instead of increasing them. I will ask you to consult L. B. Whittle. Batesburg, S. C. as to when your heavy honey flow begins. The division will

prevent after swarms, if you will take out all queen cells but one from the queenless portion 8 days after you divide. If you should divide a colony that was preparing to swarm and had queen cells well along, an after swarm might slip out in a week after your divisions were made, especially if cells were sealed: You will soon learn this. Your bees will not swarm any more till they get full and prosperous.

ATENS REPORT.

THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN.

Dear friends:— I wanted to send in my report some time ago, but, I have been delayed from doing so on account of moving here near Round Rock. I think I have a model place for my bees and dairy.

I started spring count with 270 hives increased to 302, and harvested 14,000 lbs of extracted, and 1,500 lbs of comb honey. have sold all but 4,000 lbs at extracted.

I am well pleased with the QUEEN, with one exception the rest of my family have taken to reading it and it is so hard for me to get a look at it the first day.

Please change my address to Round Rock, Texas. Would like to come to your convention in February but will have to go to Cameron, the first of Februry.

FRANK L. ATEN.

THE Southland QUEEN.

Published Monthly

E. J. Atchley, Editor and Business Mgr.
— Assisted by —

Willie, Charlie and Amanda Atchley.
Mrs. Jennie Atchley, Ed. and Manager
of School for Beginners.

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BEEVILLE, TEXAS, JANUARY, 1898.

We wish to thank our many
friends for the nice presents sent us

during the holidays, some from Ohio, Ga, Miss. California, Ill, South Dakota and Texas. The gratitude of our hearts are extended to these near and dear friends, for their kind remembrance of us. The last of the presents arrived on New years day.

We also wish to thank those of our readers that have so promptly sent in their renewals. This is great encouragement to us, and we have not as yet been troubled with slow pay on our sub list, with but a very few, likely a dozen, and this is also encouraging. If all continue to help us in the future as in the past we will enlarge the "QUEEN" for you and try to make her more interesting.

We have just printed the 1898 catalogues for W. R. Graham & son, Greenville, Texas. Manufacturers of Bee supplies and New process Foundation. See their ad in this issue.

We have received the 98 catalogue of J. M. Jenkins, Wetumpka, Ala. 60 pages. Dealer in bees and supplies; see his ad in this issue

F. L. Aten, has moved from Pflugerville to Round Rock, where he says he has an ideal location for his three hundred colonies.

How do you like the work done on this issue? don't you think it is pretty good for a little fellow like me to do all by him-self?

WILLIE ATCHLEY.

Texas Fancier

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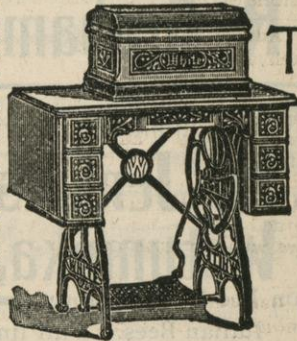
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INFORMATION!



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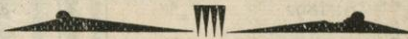
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




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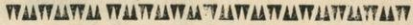
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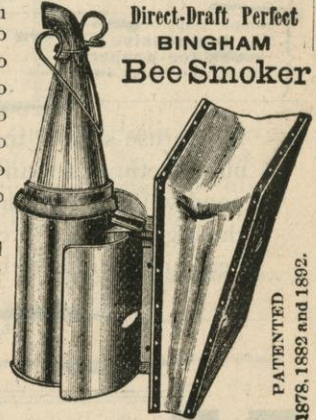
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Bee-keepers' supplies at bottom prices.

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The Jennie Atchley ©
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